

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 119752
ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS STATE 119752

ROME FOR FODAG, PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: IFAD PARTICIPATION IN CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON
DESERTIFICATION

REF: NAIROBI 7038

1. WITHOUT COMMENTING ON POSSIBLE USG PARTICIPATION IN
CG ON DESERTIFICATION WE CLEARLY WISH TO REGISTER OUR
CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY IFAD WOULD PARTICIPATE AS A
COSPONSOR OF THE GROUP.

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2. IFAD ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT ARTICLE (2) AND 7(B) SEEM
TO PROVIDE STRONG INFERENCE THAT IFAD FINANCIAL RESOURCES
ARE TO BE USED IN PROJECTS WHICH DIRECTLY WORK TO "INTRO-
DUCE, EXPAND OR IMPROVE FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS AND TO
STRENGTHEN RELATED POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS..." ITS
LENDING CRITERIA FOCUS EVEN MORE SPECIFICALLY ON THE
KINDS OF PROJECTS IFAD WILL FINANCE. THE GRANTS IFAD CAN

GIVE IN ANY ONE YEAR ARE STRICTLY LIMITED, AND "SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE FINANCING OF PROJECTS IN THE ABSOLUTE POOREST FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRIES..." WE HAVE INSISTED THAT IFAD'S STAFF BE SMALL AND THAT IT RELY ON EXISTING INSTITUTIONS TO IDENTIFY AND EXECUTE THE PROJECTS. ITS RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH THE IFI'S AND FAO STRONGLY

STATED THAT IFAD WOULD REIMBURSE THESE INSTITUTIONS ONLY FOR THE ADDITIONAL DIRECT COSTS AND INDIRECT COSTS ATTEND-
ANT WITH IFAD PROJECTS. FOR
IFAD TO COSPONSOR THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP WOULD DIRECTLY CONTRADICT ALL OF THIS.

3. THEREFORE, WHILE WE CAN SEE THE CLEAR POSSIBILITY THAT PROJECTS OF THE CG MIGHT QUALIFY FOR IFAD FUNDING, WE DO NOT SEE A ROLE FOR IFAD IN SUPPORTING THE INSTITUTION WHICH GENERATES SUCH PROJECTS.

4. USDEL NAIROBI SHOULD DRAW ON ABOVE IN DISCUSSIONS OF SPONSORSHIP. FODAG SHOULD INQUIRE IN ROME AS TO IFAD THINKING ON THIS QUESTION. WE WOULD NOTE THAT IF IFAD WERE TO OPEN ITSELF TO THIS REQUEST IT WOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME IN THE FUTURE DENYING SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS SEEKING TO TAP IFAD'S NEW MONEY. VANCE

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